BTS Management Assessment 2005

PCBs

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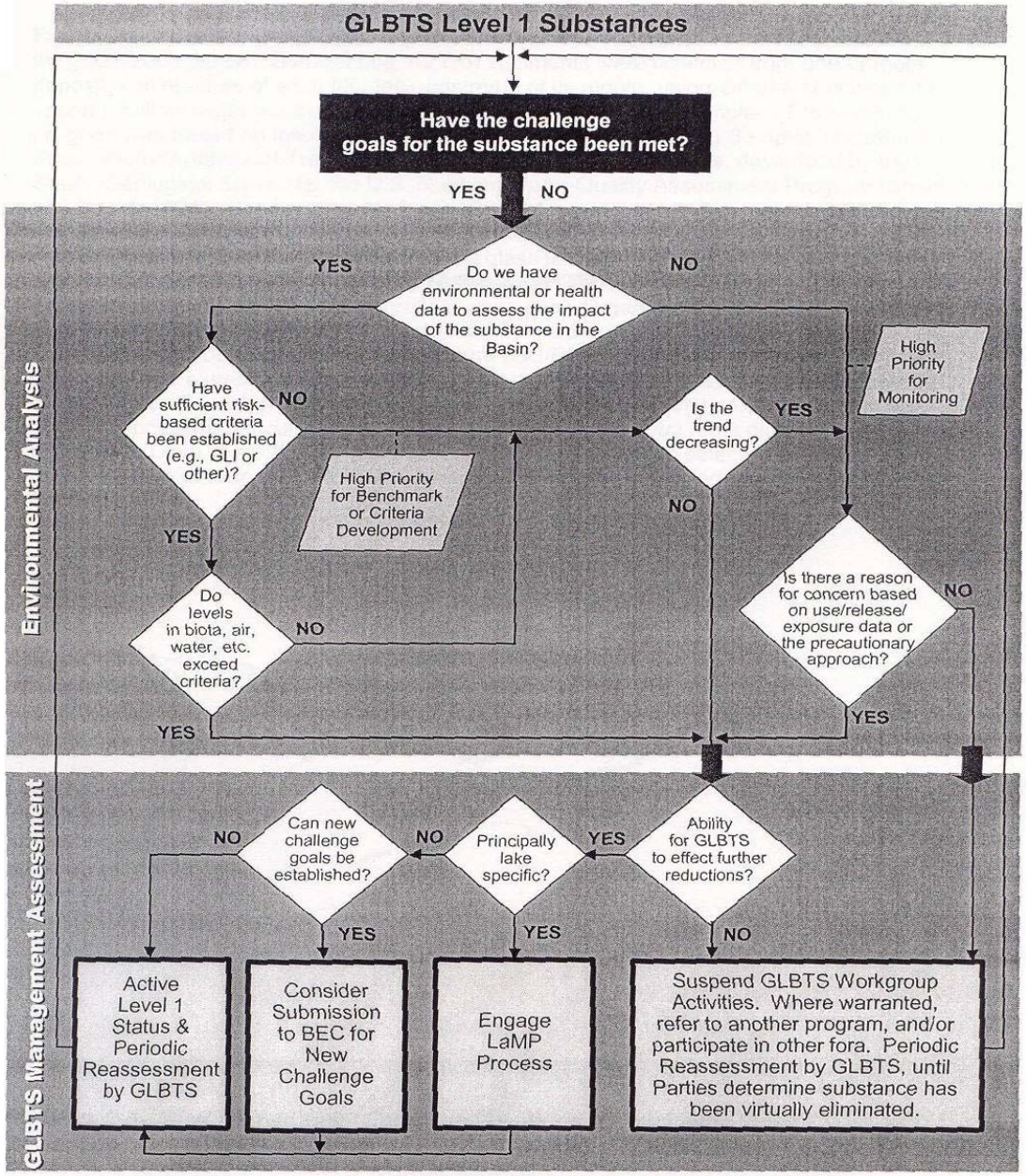
BTS Management Assessment

- Each work group is asked to prepare a "management assessment" document to show progress or success in meeting BTS goals
- PCB group needs a set of criteria to evaluate such progress against the framework developed
- A 'Criteria" document has been drafted and was circulated to work group members

General Framework to Assess Management of GLBTS Level 1 Substances



Suggested Categories for Management Assessment of PCBs

1. BTS Challenge Goals (phase-out targets) – have these been met?
2. Environmental Indicators – are data available, are PCB levels increasing or decreasing, and are impairments still evident?
3. Other areas of concern – do any other data suggest concerns or a precautionary approach?

1. Criteria to Judge BTS Challenge Goals

1A. In-use Electrical and Hydraulic Equipment – Canada goal 90% reduction since 1988

1B. PCBs in Storage - Canada goal 90% reduction since 1988 (may be better to use 1993 as a baseline)

2. Criteria to Judge Environmental Indicators

2A. PCB Contaminated Great Lakes Sediment – Ontario Lowest Effect Level for sediment

2B. Ambient Environmental PCB Levels in the Great Lakes Watershed - increasing, steady or decreasing

2. Criteria to Judge Environmental Indicators

2C. PCBs in Wildlife and Human Tissue – concentrations meet or do not meet published tissue criteria and concentrations are increasing, steady or decreasing

2D. Evidence of Ecological or Human Health Impairment - recent research results positive or negative for impact

3. Criteria to Judge Other Areas of Concern

3A. Dispersive PCB Uses – ratio of estimated PCB flux from landfills to total inputs to the Great Lakes; ratio significant or insignificant

3B. PCB Contaminated Sites - ratio of estimated PCB flux from contaminated sites to total inputs to the Great Lakes; ratio significant or insignificant

3. Criteria to Judge Other Areas of Concern

- **3C. Overall PCB Mass Flux – no clear criterion but can evaluate whether the Great lakes are a source or a sink for PCBs; if they are a source of PCBs to other ecosystems this is a negative result**

Recommendations

Assess each subcategory discussed and assign it to one or more of the following assessment categories:

i. **BTS challenge goal clearly met**

ii. **BTS challenge goal clearly not met**

iii. **BTS challenge goal predicted to be met within a short time frame with further/no further effort?**

iv. **BTS challenge goal progress difficult to assess due to lack of data or conflicting data**

Assessment Categories, continued

v. Substance is clearly still at unacceptable environmental levels and environmental criteria will not be met for the foreseeable future

vi. Substance is above environmental criteria but it appears that the observed rate of decline means that environmental criteria will be met at a predictable date

vii. Substance meets all applicable environmental criteria

viii. Substance is clearly causing environmental or human health impairment

Assessment Categories, continued

ix. Substance may be causing environmental or human health impairment, scientific studies are conflicting or inconclusive

x. Substance is not causing any environmental or human health impairment according to published studies

xi. Not enough data is available to assess impairments

xii. A more comprehensive modeling effort is needed to predict mass flux and/or future environmental levels.